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Robert McDonald

Obituary



Robert McDonald Robert "Bob" Eugene McDonald (Robob to many) died peacefully on his 88th birthday in Sonoma, California, April 23, 2016. Born in 1928 in Little Rock, Arkansas, Bob led a rich and varied life, enriching the lives of all he touched. His warmth, kindness, generosity, and joy of living was infectious and memorable to those lucky enough to be touched by him. Bob was a proud [World War II](#)

veteran having served as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne in Japan, although he was fundamentally a pacifist and against military interventions in Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle East. Following the war Bob had a choice to accept a music scholarship or pursue his passion in geology. Although music would forever be an integral part of his life he chose to pursue geology as his field of study. Bob graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Geology, then began his highly successful career as an exploration geologist. He worked for a number of oil and gas companies and eventually went out on his own achieving great success with finds in the Overthrust Belt in Wyoming. As a unique businessman, he greeted New York bankers wearing cowboy boots and traveled with a guitar and running shorts at a time folks "just didn't do that." Over the years he authored numerous papers and guidebooks in Geology. He also received a Distinguished Alumni Award from KU for his achievements and contributions to the field Geology. His success as a geologist enabled him to pursue other longtime interests. He bought farms in California's Central Valley, built one of the first mixed use properties in Pismo Beach, Calif., owned a jewelry store that focused on colored stones and museum quality minerals, raised and bred Arabian horses, all while pursuing his love for geology. His hobbies and passions included flying his planes, collecting minerals, and Southwest Indian art. He was passionate about music, both as a musician and a patron of the arts. His generous donations to the arts have helped bring music to numerous cities. His spirit as an adventuresome traveler and consummate musician is best explained with his journey up the cliffs of Malaga, Spain, to play flamenco guitar with the gypsies. He also enjoyed playing the Irish flute in pubs in Ireland and his own grand piano at home. He loved doing things outdoors, one of the advantages of being an exploration geologist. Bob had six children through four marriages. He has ten grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. The six siblings: Craig McDonald, Lee McDonald, Lynn Foster, Candace McDonald, Danya Pratt, and Samuel Regusci have many stories and memories. Bob has a bigger family, because of the lifelong relationships he developed. Although Bob was always busy with his businesses and other interests he always had time for them and made sure they were his priority. His children's lives are rich because of his support, good humor, and wise counsel. A friend, a mentor, a source of support - he will be missed. In lieu of flowers please send a donation to your local symphony or performing arts group. Sign his guestbook at sanluisobispo.com/obituaries

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Guest Book

Be the first to share your memories or express your condolences in the Guest Book for Robert McDonald.

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